

REMARKS

Remarks

This is a response to the Office Action dated March 15, 2006. Claims 41-52 are pending in the application. Claims 41, 42, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,540,286 ("Takemoto"). Claims 43, 44 and 46-49 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. These rejections and objections are believed to be overcome in view of the amendment made to claim 41.

The rejections and objections from the Office Action dated March 15, 2006 are discussed below in connection with the various claims. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner would allow Claims 50-52, and would also allow claims 43, 44 and 46-49 if rewritten in independent form.

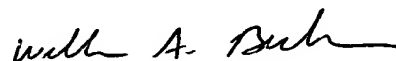
Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 41, 42, and 45 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takemoto. While Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position, Applicants have amended claim 41 to further advance the prosecution. Applicants have amended claim 41 to include the limitation of claim 44, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. As claims 42 and 45 depend from claim 41, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of claims 41, 42, and 45.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections, and that they be withdrawn. The Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned representative if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,



William A. Beckman
Registration No. 57,589
Caterpillar Inc.

Telephone: (309) 675-5187
Facsimile: (309) 675-1236